

Nilo-Saharan Linguistic Colloquium 2021

LIVING DICTIONARIES

A TUTORIAL FOR SPECIALISTS IN NILO-SAHARAN LANGUAGES

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TECHNOLOGY & ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

- What if technology can disrupt language bias?
- With over 3,000 languages in danger of being lost before 2100, we know there is a need to act quickly.
- There is a strong need to develop free tech tools that serve citizen-linguists and communities of speakers.

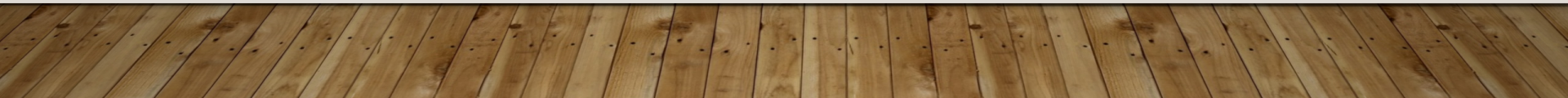


LANGUAGE JUSTICE ISSUES TO ADDRESS

● Colonization has caused thousands of language communities to become disenfranchised.

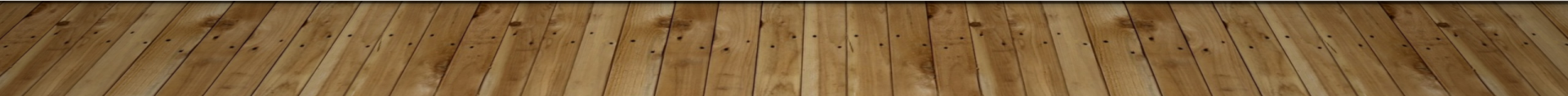
● Most countries are not investing in resources needed to support minority languages.

● We aim to obviate institutionalized barriers that prevent equal status and equitable treatment of all forms of linguistic communication.





A MORAL IMPERATIVE OF THE 21ST CENTURY IS
THE DECOLONIZATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION
OF LINGUISTIC RESOURCES.





WHAT ARE LIVING DICTIONARIES?

- A mobile-friendly web platform where citizen-linguists can build online dictionaries on any device.
- Living Dictionaries are multimedia tools for language documentation and language revitalization or maintenance.
- Accessible for free at: <https://livingdictionaries.app>



LIVING DICTIONARIES: OUR APPROACH

Community-driven

Ease of Use

Training citizen-linguists

Accessibility

Remote collaboration

User feedback in design process

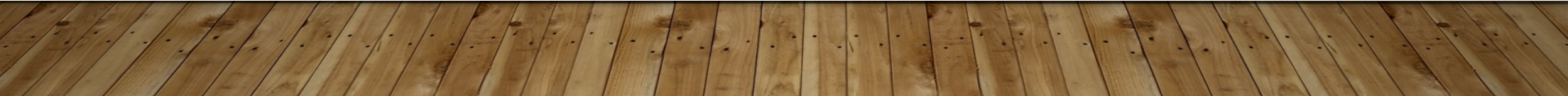
<https://livingdictionaries.app>

The screenshot shows the 'Create New Dictionary' form in the Living Dictionaries app. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Name of Language*:** A text input field containing 'Babanki'. Below it, a note states: 'This will be the name of the dictionary.'
- URL:** A text input field containing 'livingdictionaries.app/babanki'.
- Make dictionary available in...*:** A section with two selected language tags: 'English' and 'français (French)'. Below this, a note says: 'Language(s) you want to translate entries into'.
- Where is this language spoken?***: A section with a blue button labeled 'Select Coordinates'.
- Alternate Names:** A section with two tags: 'Kejom' and 'Kidzem', and an orange '+ Add' button.
- ISO 693-3 ①:** A text input field containing 'bbk'.
- Glottocode ①:** A text input field containing 'baba1266'.
- Visible to Public** (Requires Community Consent)



LIVING DICTIONARIES: ZOOM WEBINAR FOR LINGUISTS IN AFRICA (2021)





LIVING DICTIONARIES: COMMUNITY USAGE

Dictionary managers

300

Number of citizen-linguists
using the platform

Living Dictionaries

200+

Number of Living
Dictionaries created on the
platform

Total entries

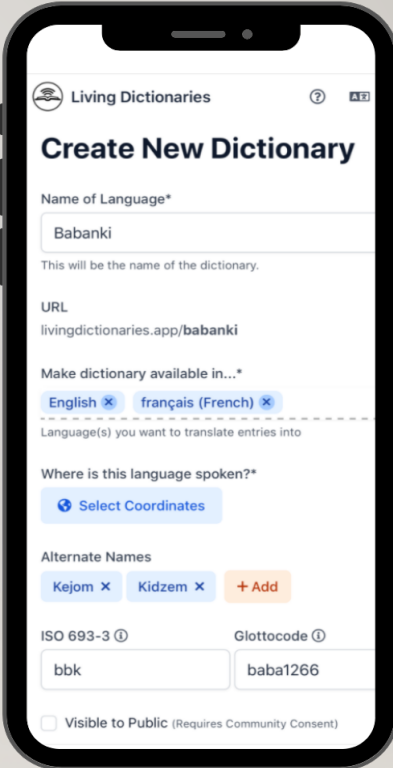
250K

Total number of entries of
all Living Dictionaries
combined

UPCOMING FEATURES

Short-term: Video integration, more interface languages, an IPA Chart picker, export functions, links to ecological databases, and regular training workshops

Long-term: speed optimization, offline mode functionality, audio analysis, expanded storage, prompts integration, automated features such as an image bank, and advanced training for linguists who wish to create monolingual dictionaries.



The image shows a smartphone screen with the 'Living Dictionaries' app interface. The title is 'Create New Dictionary'. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Name of Language*:** Babanki
- URL:** livingdictionaries.app/babanki
- Make dictionary available in...*:** English × français (French) ×
- Where is this language spoken?*** Select Coordinates
- Alternate Names:** Kejom × Kidzem × + Add
- ISO 693-3 ⓘ:** bbk
- Glottocode ⓘ:** baba1266
- Visible to Public (Requires Community Consent)



THANKS FOR WATCHING

<https://livingdictionaries.app>

<https://livingtongues.org>